

- 1 1. (Twice amended) A connection comprising:
- a. a support member;
  - b. a holder for compressibly holding a strap connector without penetration;
  - 5 c. a strap connector compressibly held by said holder without penetration of said strap connector by said holder; and
  - d. a fastener means attaching said holder to said support member, wherein:
    - i. said support member is a formboard for containing
- 10 concrete.

**Remarks****Drawings**

- 15 Applicant notes that formal drawings were received on July 17, 2002 and accepted.

**Claim Rejections and Objections**

- The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 USC 102(e) as being  
20 anticipated by US Patent No. 6,189,348 Huang.

- The Examiner has also stated that claims 2 and 6-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any  
25 intervening claims.

The Examiner has indicated that "the prior art does not teach the support member as being a formboard for containing concrete."

- 30 Applicant has amended base claim 1 to incorporate this limitation. Applicant asserts that specifying that the support member is a formboard for containing concrete distinguishes the present invention over Huang '348, which does not suggest any such use of the device described therein. Applicant believes that such a claim is allowable.

1 **Conclusion**

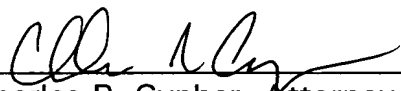
In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance.

- 5 The undersigned wishes to state that if the Examiner has any questions about this response, the undersigned would be happy to try to answer them by telephone.

10

Respectfully submitted,

15 Date: 1/20/03  
Reg. No. 41694

  
Charles R. Cypher, Attorney for Applicant  
Law Offices of James R. Cypher  
405 14th Street, Suite 1607  
Oakland, CA 94612-2777  
Tel (510) 832-4111  
Fax (510) 832-4115

20

25

30

35